

A note from Sheriff Jones

ALL EMPLOYEES –

If you are not aware, I have recently been involved in several meetings with the Desert Aire Security Team (appointed by Home Owners Association) regarding what measures the Sheriff's Office can take to help the citizens within Desert Aire. I also held a Town Hall meeting a couple weeks ago which went very well. During this time, I have become acutely aware of outside entities (Specifically IFP Security and/or their employees) intentionally working behind the scenes relaying negative information about the Sheriff's Office to the Desert Aire Association in a deliberate attempt to tarnish all of our reputations.

I would not be so bold to write something so extreme unless I had received 100% definite proof it was occurring. Below, you will find an email that was drafted by an employee of IFP Security which was sent directly to several management team members of the Desert Aire Association. The purpose? Simple. My belief, it was written to discredit every Grant County Sheriff's Office employee in an attempt to create concern or even worse, fear and a need for continued security. This attack appears to be purely for financial gain and it is a high risk game plan which has severely backfired as of today!

If you have friends or acquaintances that work for this company and have taken the time to roadside to check in or to see what is happening please see from the letter below, they are using this time with you to collect data and use it against you, as well as this office to deface our efforts in the south county which has me frustrated and angry. I am drawing a line in the proverbial sand. Also, questions from non-law enforcement (citizens) personnel that are answered with information from your issued MDC's could be a federal violation of ACCESS rules and put anyone of us in immediate jeopardy of losing privileges.

Effective today, I am ordering all Grant County Sheriff's Office employees who have contact with this company (IFP Security) NOT to provide any internal or law enforcement sensitive information about our calls for service, operational objectives, policies and/or procedures in the future when in direct contact with them. This does not mean you ignore calls for service when this company, or its employees are involved. You will respond to ALL calls for service in the south county or Desert Aire and find out what information they have if they are the RP. If they are not directly involved with a call for service, you will not disseminate information to them or supply them with operational information. Also, if you are on a call for service and they arrive but are not directly related to the investigation, you will ask them to clear the scene.

I feel torn it has come to this level of response but also know it is in the best interest of the Grant County Sheriff's Office to protect the Mission, Vision and Values as well as all of our individual reputations. Thank you all for your continued efforts in making our office one of the most responsive, professional agencies in the state.

One reminder, if you are assigned south patrol, please go and stay south. Supervisors have been asked to make every effort to eliminate the need for you to leave your zone prior to the end of your daily tour.

LETTER I RECEIVED FROM DESERT AIRE ASSOCIATION:

Ladies and gentlemen

So thought I'd take a moment and throw some things out I've been hearing and seeing the last several nights. This way we can all be talking about the same things and share ideas of how to overcome what is happening in your community.

Over the weekend the south deputy showed up between 11 and 12 every night. He came in on DA Drive and parked at the fire department. I swung in and chatted with him a few times. The info I found out from him was he lives way north in the county. It takes him a minimum of 1.5 hours to get to the south beat if he does not get in to anything along the way. He also told me he starts heading home 2 to 3 hours before the end of his shift so not to be on over time by the time he gets there.

So then a totally different crew worked the beginning of the week. In talking with THAT deputy I found out this crew still has breakfast around 3 or 4 am at Bob's Diner in Moses Lake...and the South Deputy is authorized by his Sergeant to leave his beat to be there. All of which leaves the south county (DA) completely unpatrolled during the early morning hours. I have been getting information we are having some vehicle prowls early in the mornings that are not being reported...

So the weekend crew was back last night (Wednesday). Although the same Deputy was on the schedule and listed on the computers in the cars as south...he was in fact handling calls in the east beat (moses lake area). The sergeant (who was scheduled as "rover") was supposed to be handling calls in the south beat, but was not patrolling south, so in fact the north deputy handled the fees calls south last night.

As you can see, the "mandates" we have been told have been made in the last couple weeks are not being upheld by the road deputies and their sergeants. I have been told by the road deputies the email that went out to the road was that these were "best practice guidelines" eventhough the DA community was told they were mandates. I highly doubt the chief deputies and the sheriff himself know any of this is happening.

Some good parts are the fact that Sunday through Tuesday (since a Deputy was in the area those nights) there were foot pursuits, a vehicle pursuit, stolen vehicle recovery with the suspect in it. Most of these ended in arrests. None of which would have happened if the deputies would not have been in the area.

Having this all in mind...how does the DA community combat this? We have all kicked around the idea of a DA Police Department at some time or another....but do we all know what that actually looks like or costs or what it would take to set up? I dont think any of us are on the same page on the PD. My question is this: would it behoove "us" to sit down for a presentation by IFP as to what "we" are talking about when we are talking of setting up a PD in DA? A presentation that would line out the options of NOT a 24 hour full commissioned PD but a mixture of security and commissioned officers fully dedicated to just the "Grant County Airport District #1" footprint. This would not be a proposal but a presentation to get everyone the same info on costs, logistics, etc to start informed discussions with the same basic idea and see where "we" take it from there.

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Ray Appling / Oct. 18

Chairperson
DAOA Security & Safety Committee
Desert Aire Property Owner since 1995

On Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 7:12 PM Tom Jones <tjones@grantcountywa.gov> wrote:
Pam,

I am not even sure how to start out this communication with you and the committee. I received and read the email that was sent to the committee from Ray Appling with the security company. To say that I was livid after reading that is an understatement. I made a commitment to the safety and security committee of Desert Aire. Since we have met with your group now three times, and I believe making good progress in all of those meeting as well as had a Town Hall meeting. Having myself and my staff put this much effort into responding to these Untruthful and misguided communications with the committee is ridiculous. I know that you met with my undersheriff and Ken this morning. I had heard that it went well as I expected it to. Then to get this communication from Ray, again attacking my office and the men and women that work here is beneath him. All I read by that email is that this company (FOR PROFIT) by the way, wants to start a police department and have security in Desert Aire. Ray, as and EX, and I mean EX Reserve Deputy, used tad bits of information over a half of a week and two, "hey buddy how are you" conversations with Deputies to build this ridiculous email that he sent to you. I want you and the committee to know that I am officially DONE with IPF and the employees of it.

As I stated to the committee members before, this security company has absolutely zero interest in working with our office. Even though we have tried and have been flat lied to. This company is employed by you and I along with a lot of persons believe that their integrity is in question. I saw in the email that Ray received information on several vehicle prowls that were not reported. Did he report them? Did he pass on that information. Don't think so. I could type for a long type right now as I am extremely frustrated with this company and how they have portrait the Sheriff's Office to you and the committee. I am going to put out direction to my staff that they are not to pass information of a law enforcement nature to this company or any of its associates. In my opinion, they have truly made their bed.

I am still very committed to working diligently with Desert Aire and the committee to resolve coverage issues, but I am not willing to waist another second on defending my office against these blatant attacks. Also, it will not be necessary to pass this on to Dan Couture. I will be doing that myself.

Sorry for the rant Pam. Thank you for all that you, Caroline and the committee are doing. P.S. Ken stated in the meeting that Caroline stated I had mud on my face because I had initially stated that there were only two calls made by the security company. I advised you of it the presence of my Undersheriff that there were actually 18 calls in 2018 from the security at the Town hall meeting. If this did not get communicated to the rest of the committee, would you please do so. Also the other question was the cameras. I know that we spoke with you regarding the cameras as well as James Curdy. Ken mentioned that there was some disconnect regarding the installation of the camera. We are a government agency and it takes time to purchase these cameras. The commissioners have told me the cameras are approved for the 2019 budget. Again, we are a government agency so the camera are going to take some time but they will be installed. We will keep you up to date on the progress. I have cc'd my administrative staff as well.

Thank you Pam and I am looking forward to our continued partnership in resolving the issues of Desert Aire. If you have questions, please feel free to email me or give me a call. I am in Seattle all week this week.

Thank you

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